

# One with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

The Pentecostal faith promotes a literal indwelling of the Holy Spirit to explain how man and God are one. Consider a statement from an article of a Pentecostal member: “The Holy Ghost is not a third person in the Godhead, but rather the Spirit of God (the Creator), the Spirit of the resurrected Christ. The Holy Ghost comes to dwell in the hearts and lives of everyone who believes and obeys the gospel, as the comforter, Sustainer, and keeper (John 14:16-26; Romans 8:9-11)” (Article: *The Apostles’ Doctrine* taken from The Official Website of the United Pentecostal Church International [www.upci.org]). Consider some Bible verses which may appear to indicate a literal indwelling; however, upon closer examination we will see that the association between God and man is in purpose rather than a physical indwelling.

Jesus said, “*if a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him*” (Jn. 14:23). On another occasion, the apostle Paul said, “*But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you. But if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his*” (Rom. 8:9). Once again, the apostle John said, “*No man hath beheld God at any time: if we love one another, God abideth in us and his love is perfected in us:*” (I Jn. 4:12). There is no doubt that the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit all dwell within the Christian as God. Where there is question with denominational thinking is in the area of how this occurs. This article shall examine the oneness that exists between the saints and God.

## The “Oneness” of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

To understand the oneness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit is to understand the oneness of the Christian and the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The author of Hebrews set forth the oneness of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He quotes Jeremiah 31:31ff at Hebrews 8:6-9 and attributes the Old Testament quote to Jesus, and then he turns around and quotes the verse which states that it is the Lord saying Jeremiah 31:31ff. What this tells us is that the Lord is Jesus and He speaks the Word of God. At Hebrews 10:15-16 the same Jeremiah 31:31ff quote is given; however, now the verse is attributed to the Holy Spirit who is the Lord. Clearly the Lord, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are equivalent in some way. The apostle Peter told us that the Holy Spirit is ‘equivalent’ to God when he denounced Ananias’ lie (Acts 5:1-4). Since the Father is God (cf. Jn. 6:27) there is an ‘equivalence’ between the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Now consider that it is Jesus’ desire for His disciples of all time to share in this ‘equivalence’ with Himself, the Father, and the Holy Spirit. Jesus prayed in John 17:20-21, “*Neither for these only do I pray (His immediate disciples), but for them also that believe on me through their word; that they may all be one; even as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they also may be in us: that the world may believe that thou didst send me.*” Note that future disciples would be “one” with Jesus

and the Father, and this oneness equals being “*in*” each other. Now we have taken a step forward in understanding what it means to be in the Father, Christ, and Holy Spirit (it is to be “*one*” with them as they are one).

### **How are the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Christian One?**

The idea of bringing **glory** to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit seems to give a clear answer to our question. Note that the apostle Paul said, “*Now the God of patience and of comfort grant you to be of the same mind one with another according to Christ Jesus: that with one accord ye may with one mouth glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ*” (Rom. 15:5-6). The Christian will bring **glory** to God when united in truth. Jesus **glorified** the Father when doing His divine will (Jn. 17:4). The Holy Spirit glorified Jesus when “*declaring*” His divine will (truth) (Jn. 16:14). If the Holy Spirit glorified Jesus by “*declaring*” divine truths, then He glorified the Father. Jesus said, “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no one cometh unto the Father, but by me*” (Jn. 14:6). Philip then asked Jesus to show the disciples the Father and Jesus said, to paraphrase, “if you have seen me you have seen the Father.” Then the Lord said, “*Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? The words that I say unto you I speak not from myself: but the Father abiding in me doeth his works*” (Jn. 14:8-10). When Jesus spoke “*words*,” the words proved His being one with the Father. The Christian brings glory to God through bearing fruit in truth (cf. Jn. 15:8-10), the Holy Spirit brings glory to the Father and Son by “*declaring*” these truths (Jn. 16:14), and Jesus brings glory to the Father when doing His will (Jn. 17:4).

Here then is the defining of “oneness.” When the disciples kept Jesus’ words which were from the Father, they “*glorified*” His name (Jn. 17:10). Jesus prayed that the Father would “*keep them (the disciples) in thy name **which thou hast given me**, that they may be one, even as we are*” (Jn. 17:11). The Father had given Jesus “*words*” (the truth) and Jesus gave these truths to the disciples (Jn. 17:7). When the disciples kept these words faithfully, they were considered “*one*” as the Father and Son were “*one*.” How are the Father, Son, Holy Spirit, and Christian one? They are all one in truth! Truth is the uniting thread that causes all to be one. When all are in truth, said ones are “*in*” each other (cf. Jn. 17:21).

### **How do the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit Dwell Within the Christian?**

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit are “*in*” the Christian through truth. The apostle Paul asked the Galatians, “*This only would I learn from you, received ye the Spirit by the works of the law, or by the hearing of faith?*” (Gal. 3:2). The same apostle told us that we receive faith by the hearing of the word of God (Rom. 10:17). Receiving the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit’s indwelling is receiving the word of God. It is letting the word of God dictate our thoughts and actions in life. To parcel out the

person of the Holy Spirit into all Christians is no more possible than to physically parcel out any person into another.

Paul prayed a fervent prayer in Ephesians 3 in which he asked “*that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith...*” (3:17). Paul told the Galatians, “*Christ lives in me*” and then went on to explain the how. Christ lived and dwelled in Paul through faith (Cf. Gal. 2:20).

### **Truth is the Nucleus of the Matter!**

Truth is the gospel (Eph. 1:13). Truth unites the Christian with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit in a union of **purpose**. When people share the same purpose, they are said to be one. The Lord commanded that Christians be of one mind in the truth (Rom. 15:5-6; I Cor. 1:10; Eph. 4:1ff; Phil. 1:27). The psalmist said, “*Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!*” (Ps. 133:1). The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit do not make a physical habitation (possession) of the Christian’s mind and body; they dwell within through truth. Together we share the same purpose, i.e., the eternal glorification of our bodies!